

STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT

Cherry Press Release



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SENATE PASSES LEGISLATION TO HELP UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

(LANSING)—The Senate unanimously passed legislation yesterday that will temporarily extend unemployment benefits to many of Michigan’s unemployed workers. The bill will now go to Governor Granholm for her signature.

“It is important to extend every protection possible to Michigan workers during these difficult economic times,” said Senator Deb Cherry (D-Burton), a co-sponsor of the Senate version of the bill. “These additional benefits will help families meet their basic needs while they continue to look for employment opportunities.”

Under this new legislation, Michigan workers would be provided additional unemployment benefits through the federal Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation-X (TEUC-X) program and the federal-state Extended Benefits (EB) program. In order to trigger onto the TEUC-X and EB programs, the state’s total unemployment rate must average 6.5 percent or higher for three months. The new legislation will allow us to temporarily switch our state to a TUR-based system and use this optional trigger-on mechanism to access the federal programs. This is the first time in Michigan’s history that the state has exercised this option to tap into additional federal dollars.

“There are nearly 53,000 jobless workers who may be eligible for continued unemployment benefits under this new program,” said Cherry. “Helping those who are most in need helps all Michigan families.”

Senator Cherry is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and is Minority Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, and the subcommittee on Community Health.

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